Calendar No. 1542

82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1609

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN ALASKA

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Mr. ELLENDER, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6922]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6922) to amend section 22 (relating to the endowment and support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts) of the act of June 29, 1935, so as to extend the benefits of such section to certain colleges in the Territory of Alaska, having considered same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

H. R. 6922 was reported to the House on April 8, 1952, by the Committee on Agriculture and a copy of the report (H. Rept. 1746) explaining the bill is attached hereto as a part of this report.

[H. Rept. No. 1746, 82d Cong., 2d sess.]

The Committee on Agriculture to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6922) to amend section 22 (relating to the endowment and support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts) of the act of June 29, 1935, so as to extend the benefits of such section to certain colleges in the Territory of Alaska, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

STATEMENT

In the act of June 29, 1935, Congress provided additional funds for the work of the agricultural and mechanical colleges in the several States and Territories. It authorized appropriation of $980,000 annually to be divided equally among the 48 States and the Territory of Hawaii—$20,000 to each. It also provided for appropriation of $1,500,000 annually, to be divided among the same recipients on the basis of the proportion of the total population of each State and the Territory of Hawaii to the total combined population of the States and that Territory.

For some reason, Alaska was not included in this additional assistance for agricultural colleges, although there was at that time an agricultural college in the Territory of Alaska and although Alaska had been included in the acts of

1890 and 1907, to which the act of 1935 is supplementary. No explicit testimony was presented to the committee as to why Alaska was omitted from the 1935 act, but presumably, it was because of the then small population of that Territory.

Since 1935 there has been a sharp increase in the population of Alaska and the Territory has also assumed tremendous strategic importance. There is the possibility of much more agricultural development in Alaska than now exists and it is the interest of a sound national economy and national defense to utilize the agricultural possibilities of the Territory to the fullest. It seems clear to the committee that there is every reason why Alaska should share in this otherwise general support of agricultural colleges and no sound reason why it should be omitted therefrom.

The bill was originally introduced as H. R. 3165 and a favorable report thereon was received from both the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Security Agency. The report of the Federal Security Agency pointed out that the bill in the form in which it was referred to the committee would authorize allocation of funds to Alaska but would require that these funds be deducted from the allocations now received by the other States and Hawaii. The Agency suggested that the bill be amended to authorize the appropriation of the additional funds necessary to give Alaska its allotment without reducing those of the other States and Hawaii.

The committee approved of the principle of the amendment proposed by the Federal Security Agency and requested the author of the bill, Mr. Bartlett, to introduce a new bill embodying the amendment, and ordered the same reported. The bill reported herewith (H. R. 6922) will, therefore, authorize the inclusion of Alaska in the assistance to agricultural colleges provided by the act of June 29, 1935, on the same basis as the 48 States and the Territory of Hawaii. The net effect of the bill will be to add $21,500 to the authorizations contained in the act of June 9, 1935.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Approval of this legislation is recommended by both the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Security Agency and their letters, recommending approval, are appended hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., August 31, 1951.

Hon. HAROLD D. COOLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. COOLEY: This is in reply to your request of July 20, 1951, for a report on H. R. 3165, a bill to amend section 22 (relating to the endowment and support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts) of the act of June 29, 1935, so as to extend the benefits of such section to certain colleges in the Territory of Alaska.

As you are aware, section 22 of the act of June 29, 1935, authorizes appropriations for the further endowment of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts, and is administered by the Office of Education, Federal Security Agency. It is presumed that their views are being obtained.

It is the opinion of this Department that the young people of Alaska are as much entitled to a strong educational program, under Federal support, as has already been provided in the case of the States and the Territory of Hawaii. The Territory of Alaska has established and is supporting a university of high standing and is deserving of this additional assistance. We have no objection to the passage of the bill.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

C. J. MCCORMICK, *Acting Secretary.*

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY,
Washington, May 10, 1951.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your request of March 15, 1951, for a report on H. R. 3165, a bill to amend section 22 (relating to the endowment and support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts) of the act of

June 29, 1935, so as to extend the benefits of such section to certain colleges in the Territory of Alaska.

The bill would provide for amending section 22 of the act of June 29, 1935, so as to extend to Alaska the benefits of such section.

In 1935 when the law was passed granting to each State and the Territory of Hawaii additional sums for instruction in their land-grant colleges and universities, Alaska and Puerto Rico were omitted. In the 1890 and 1907 acts to which section 22 of the act of 1935 is supplementary, all the States and Territories were included.

Presumably the reason for the omission of Alaska in 1935 was its small population. Since that time the population has increased to 128,643 according to the 1950 census figures. In comparison, the three least populous States have: Nevada, 160,083; Wyoming, 290,529; Delaware, 318,085.

Probably the greater claim that Alaska has to the added funds is the strategic importance of its location. It is important from the point of view of national defense that Alaska be developed. It has many natural handicaps which the maintenance of a university helps to counterbalance. It has meager resources upon which to draw. Therefore, the sums involved in H. R. 3165 would seem to be justified. I therefore endorse the purpose of this bill.

In its present form, the bill does not provide for increasing the sums made available by the 1935 act. Therefore, if passed in its present form, the allotment to Alaska will be made at the expense of the several States and Hawaii. I recommend that the $980,000 appearing in (a) of section 22 of the 1935 act be increased to $1,000,000, thus providing for an allotment of $20,000 to Alaska, the same as to the States and Hawaii. I recommend also that the $1,500,000 appearing in (b) of section 22 of the 1935 act be increased by $1,500 in order that Alaska may share in that fund without decreasing the allotments to the States and Hawaii. The Alaska allotment according to the 1950 census would be slightly under $1,500.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that Puerto Rico has a population of more than 2,200,000 and may well claim consideration for inclusion with Alaska.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN L. THURSTON,
Acting Administrator.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 7, UNITED STATES CODE

SEC. 329. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

In order to provide for the more complete endowment and support of the [colleges in the several States and the Territory of Hawaii] *colleges in the several States and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii* entitled to the benefits of sections 301–308 of this title, there are authorized to be appropriated annually, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following amounts:

(a) For the fiscal year beginning after June 29, 1935, and for each fiscal year thereafter, [$980,000] *$1,000,000*; and

(b) For the fiscal year following the first fiscal year for which an appropriation is made in pursuance of paragraph (a) $500,000, and for each of the two fiscal years thereafter $500,000 more than the amount authorized to be appropriated for the preceding fiscal year, and for each fiscal year thereafter [$1,500,000] *$1,501,500*. The sums appropriated in pursuance of paragraph (a) shall be paid annually to the several States and the [Territory of Hawaii] *Territories of Alaska and Hawaii* in equal shares. The sums appropriated in pursuance of paragraph (b) shall be in addition to sums appropriated in pursuance of paragraph (a) and shall be allotted and paid annually to each of the several States and the [Territory

of Hawaii] *Territories of Alaska and Hawaii* in the proportion which the total population of each such State and Territory [of Hawaii] bears to the total population of all the States and the [Territory of Hawaii] *Territories of Alaska and Hawaii*, as determined by the last preceding decennial census. Sums appropriated in pursuance of this section shall be in addition to sums appropriated or authorized under sections 301–308 of this title, and shall be applied only for the purposes of the colleges defined in such sections. The provisions of law applicable to the use and payment of sums under sections 321–328 of this title shall apply to the use and payment of sums appropriated in pursuance of this section (June 29, 1935, ch. 338, § 22, 49 Stat. 439).

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